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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Takaaki MAEKAWA et al.

Serial No. ~~NEW~~ 09/719854

Filed December 18, 2000

PURIFYING APPARATUS

Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH

Docket No. 2000\_1716A

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims:

Kindly amend claims ~~3, 5-13~~ and ~~15-25~~ as follows.

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2";

Claim 5, line 1, delete "or 4";

Claim 6, line 1, change "of any of claims 1 to 5" to --of claim 1--;

Claim 7, line 1, change "of any one of claims 1 to 6" to --of claim 1--;

Claim 8, line 1, change "of any one of claims 1 to 7" to --of claim 1--;

Claim 9, line 1, change "of any one of claims 6 to 8" to --of claim 6--;

Claim 10, line 1, change "of any one of claims 7 to 9" to --of claim 7--;

Claim 11, line 1, change "of any one of claims 6 to 10" to --of claim 6--;

Claim 12, line 1, change "of any one of claims 1 to 11" to --of claim 1--;

Claim 13, line 1, change "of any one of claims 1 to 12" to --of claim 1--;

Claim 15, line 1, change "of any one of claims 2 to 14" to --of claim 2--;